

Workforce Partnership of Greater RI
Executive Committee Meeting
March 3, 2015

Present: Steve Kitchin, Paul Ouellette, Robin Ann Smith, Lauren Slocum, Paul Wielgus

WPGRI Staff: Nancy Olson, Diane Vendetti

Guests: Paul Genovesi, SWIO

Welcome/Call to Order

Chair Steve Kitchin called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. and welcomed Gail Patry to her first Executive Committee meeting as Chair of the Strategic Development and Evaluation Committee. Chair Kitchin then requested the Committee review the minutes from October, 7 2014 Executive Committee meeting.

Vote: Robin Ann Smith made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Paul Ouellette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Chair Kitchin stated he missed his first meeting as a member of the Governor's Workforce Board [GWB] due to personal issues. However, he and Janet Raymond of Workforce Solutions are scheduled to meet with Executive Director Rick Brooks and Board Chairman Connie Howes to discuss the role of the local boards on the GWB.

Executive Directors Report

Executive Director Nancy Olson stated that GRI is currently in the process of its 3-year consolidated review with US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration. This fiscal review went well with no findings and Brian Gambardella received favorable mention from the Region 1 staff.

Nancy informed the committee that GRI is working with DLT on submission of a federal grant proposal for Apprenticeship. Andrew Cortes from Building Futures is leading the effort since he is a national expert on apprenticeship.

Work continues on the H1-B Ready to Work grant. GRI meets weekly with Tech Collective and Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston. In addition, Nancy, Bob Ricci and Kathie Shields are scheduled to meet with staff from Senator Reed's office next week.

Director Olson indicated that GRI received 199 applications for the Office Manager position. Interviews are scheduled for next week and hiring should occur within 30 days of submitting selected candidate to Human Resources.

Jobs Driven National Emergency Grant On-the-Job Training Wage

Nancy Olson asked the committee to consider a lower wage of \$10/hr for the 32 OJT contracts required under the grant. GRI's current policy for WIA is a minimum of \$12/hr, however, this grant is geared towards serving the long-term unemployed and a lower wage would provide more entry-level employment options. The Chairman raised the question about whether \$10/hr would be sufficient income for individuals. Paul Ouellette asked whether there was consideration given to a wage increase at the conclusion of training. Gail Patry stated that this was not discussed at the Strategic Committee meeting and that the committee was in support of the lower wage for this grant.

Vote: Gail Patry made a motion to recommend to the Board of Directors the use of a \$10/hr minimum wage for OJT under the Jobs Driven National Emergency Grant. Lauren Slocum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

December Dashboard

Gail Patry reviewed the December, 2014 dashboard. Paul Wielgus noted the decrease in job placements in Q2 and asked whether there should be concern. Nancy Olson responded that hiring typically drops off during the holiday season and picks back up again in January. There was also discussion about the unemployment rate. Gail mentioned Governor Raimondo's presentation at the GWB regarding the decline in middle income employment being and replaced with lower wage jobs.

Fiscal Report

Lauren Slocum reviewed the fiscal report as of December 31, 2014.

Vote: Lauren Slocum made a motion to recommend to the Board of Directors to accept the fiscal report as submitted. Robin Ann Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Plan Update

Nancy Olson provided an overview of the progress made to date on Strategic Plan goals and objectives. Chair Kitchin requested that each committee review items that they are responsible for and provide an update to the Board regarding progress made towards achievement for goals that are yet to be attained. He also asked Gail Patry to consider planning a Strategic Retreat to begin work on developing a new Strategic Plan that will incorporate WIOA requirements.

Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act [WIOA]

Nancy Olson mentioned that she plans to do a presentation at the Board meeting to inform members about the new law. She also stated that the Strategic Development and Evaluation Committee will assume responsibility for transition planning activities. Nancy thanked Tony Lucca at the Providence Cranston WIB for providing resources to GRI.

Committee Reports

Board Development/Marketing Task Force

Chair Paul Ouellette stated that Board Development activities are on hold pending WIOA Board requirements. The Marketing Task Force has met to review print collateral and staff outreach activities.

Strategic Development and Evaluation

Chair Gail Patry stated she had no further business to discuss.

Finance Committee

Chair Lauren Slocum stated she had no further business to discuss.

Youth Council

Chair Paul Wielgus asked for readers for summer youth employment proposals. Gail Patry requested a list of programs that were funded during the current program year. Carlos will be asked to send those to Gail.

The Youth Council has met twice recently mainly to educate new members about the youth system.

Adjournment

Chair Kitchin requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Vote: Paul Ouellette made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lauren Slocum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane C. Vendetti